

Fair tonight, followed by increasing cloudiness Saturday; colder tonight; warmer Saturday.

NO. 761.

The Great Providers.

## WE'RE PUZZLED

to know what special bargain to talk about today. Our stock-taking revealed so many odd pieces of furniture and single suites that we have ticketed them at half price. There is not a department in all our big double store and annex that cannot boast of a list of bargains a yard long. You'd do well to take stock of your house and figure out—not what things you need alone, but all that you could make use of—for this is an opportunity to make your dollars go twice as far as usual. Even these half-price prices carry credit with them if you desire it. Have you acquainted yourself with our credit system.

**Mayer & Pettit**  
415-417 Seventh St.

## DIAMOND THIEF'S TRICK

Worked an Old Swindle Upon Jeweler Samaha.

## HE POSED AS A PHYSICIAN

Ordered Valuable Gems Sent to His Invalid Wife and Substituted a Box With a Bullet in It for the One With the Diamonds—Used the Name of Dr. Davis.

A diamond robbery was perpetrated yesterday afternoon in the store of A. Samaha, a Persian gem dealer at No. 1345 F street northwest. Today detectives are endeavoring to locate the whereabouts of the swindler and thief who is as clever as any crook who has visited Washington for some time. It was an old swindle, however, but cleverly perpetrated.

Mr. Samaha sells imported imitations of diamonds and also deals in the genuine article. Yesterday afternoon a man about 35 or 40 years old, about five feet tall, high and weighing possibly 150 pounds entered the store and asked to be shown genuine diamonds. He spurned the imitation and impressed the dealer as a man of prominence and wealth. The customer wore a mixed brown sack suit of clothes and brown derby hat. His complexion was sallow and his mouth was shaded by a heavy brown mustache. Mr. Samaha showed him a ring set with a diamond ring and the man selected one of the diamonds. He paid for it with a check for \$25, and one lady's bracelet set with diamonds valued at \$25.

"Now, I want these delivered to my home, No. 1010 Fifteenth street, northwest," said the man. "I am Dr. Charles Davis," he announced. "My wife is ill and I desire to make a surprise present to her. I have some nice jewelry and I will have it delivered to her. If you will kindly lay these aside for me."

"Certainly," responded the dealer. "I will be back about 6 o'clock," added the alleged physician as he departed. He was true to his word. Promptly at 6 he appeared at the store and offered a small jewel box into which the jeweler placed the diamonds.

"Allow me to fix that up if you please," the stranger requested, and he wrapped the box up neatly in a paper with a piece of silk cord. He then fumbled in his pocket for a pencil with which to write the address. He finally found the pencil, but he did not observe that the box containing the jewel had disappeared in the customer's pocket and in its place a similar box of about the same size and shape was ready to be addressed. The address was placed in a bold hand.

"Mrs. Dr. Charles Davis, 1010 Fifteenth street, northwest," he wrote. "Deliver it about 8 o'clock and I will be there to pay on delivery," the customer said.

It was delivered promptly to the real Dr. Davis. The latter told the man he had ordered no jewelry.

"Of course I am Dr. Davis," he said, "but I ordered no jewelry."

Mr. Samaha had gone with the jeweler himself and the man he met at the house was certainly not Dr. Davis who had been his customer, so he returned to his store, wondering how such a mistake could have been made. At the store the jeweler opened the box, but to his dismay, the diamonds had gone and in their place snugly packed a 22-caliber bullet all wrapped in cotton batting. Then he realized that he had been swindled, and calling at detective headquarters reported the facts to Inspector Mattingly. Detective Boyd investigated.

Dr. Charles Davis lives at No. 1010 Fifteenth street, but it was clear that he knew nothing about the jewelry purchased and his name had been made use of by the swindler, who by the time his trick was discovered, was no doubt on his way to some distant city.

All on Board Saved.

London, Jan. 7.—The British steamer Knight of St. George, signalled at St. Catherine's Point this morning that she had been in collision with the British steamer Lepanto, from Boston for Hull. The collision occurred in a thick fog. The Lepanto sank, but all on board were saved. The bows of the Knight of St. George were damaged and she is on her way to Cardiff for repairs.

Frank Libbey & Company, Sixth street and New York avenue.

## CHANDLER JOINS TILLMAN

They Are in Opposition to the Anti-Scalping Bill.

## TESTIMONY FOR RAILROADS

A Battering Cross-Examination of General Passenger Agent George H. Daniels, of the New York Central—He Claims That Frauds Are Constantly Occurring.

The hearing on the anti-scalping bill was resumed before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee this morning. Up to a quarter of 11 o'clock Chairman Cullom and Messrs. Chandler, Ells, Gear, Wolcott, and Tillman were the only Senators present.

Mr. George H. Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central, was the first witness examined. He had a formidable pile of documents before him, and commenced to read from carefully prepared manuscripts facts which, he claimed, proved beyond any doubt that ticket scalping is a dishonest business.

Mr. Daniels was subjected to a rattling cross-examination by Senators Chandler and Tillman, showing that the former is probably against the bill. Indeed Mr. Chandler practically admitted that he stood with the South Carolinian in opposing the demands of the railway companies.

Mr. Daniels presented affidavits to show that counterfeit tickets were issued by railways that did not exist, and explained that these frauds were constantly occurring, because there were no laws to punish the perpetrators of such frauds.

Mr. Spohn, who said he represented the building trades and the Central Labor Union of the District of Columbia, was the next witness. He said organized labor seriously objected to the enactment of the proposed law.

Mr. Spohn, who incidentally attacked Senator Frye's seaman's bill, and had to be called to order because that measure was before another committee.

Senator Chandler remarked that the witness had better not attack the other bill, and added: "You might prejudice me, I am against the anti-scalping bill."

Some of the Senators seemed to doubt that Mr. Spohn had authority to speak for organized labor and finally asked him to state the name of the union which he represented.

Mr. Paul Morton, of Chicago, third vice president of the A. F. of M., Topinka and Santa Fe Railway and son of Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Secretary of Agriculture in the last Cleveland Administration, then addressed the committee in favor of the bill. Mr. Morton denied that 90 per cent of the scalpers' tickets came directly from the railways, as stated yesterday by Mr. Daniels.

Mr. Morton exhibited a number of fraudulent tickets and altered envelopes which he permitted the scalpers to send men other than those to whom the tickets were issued.

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## TRAINING STAMPS LEGAL.

Boston Municipal Court Refuses to Entertain a Complaint.

Boston, Jan. 7.—In consequence of the discussion about the legality of the training stamp method of dealing and advertising, Mr. Charles E. Osgood, who has employed the method with success for some time, determined to test the question. He was advised by his attorney, Col. Mevin O. Adams, that his method of conducting the business was entirely legal; he did not care, however, to be a person engaged in business methods which could be construed as violation of law. Accordingly, a police officer was called in, and a complete training stamp transaction was disclosed to him, with the evidence. Upon this the officer went to the municipal court with Mr. P. R. Baker, the counsel for the board of police, and, after hearing before it, that court decided that it was not a violation of law, and that the method of doing business was legal.

The superintendent of police, following this decision, has notified all the captains, and it is expected that there will be no further attempts to make complaints. This decision is in accord with a recent decision dismissing a complaint in Lynn; also with the judgment of the court in Lowell, which confirms the opinion of the Hon. Robert O. Harris, district attorney, who was applied to by merchants of Brockton, and who as recently as December 17 last, gave them a written opinion that the business was legal, and was in no sense a violation of law.

The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, held its first meeting for this session of Congress this morning, with the following members present: James McMillan, chairman, of Michigan; Jacob B. Gallinger, of New Hampshire; Redfield Proctor, of Vermont; Jeter C. Critchard, of North Carolina; Lucien Baker, of Kansas; Thomas S. Martin, of Virginia, and Richard R. Kenney, of Delaware.

A great many bills were on the calendar, but will require the careful consideration of subcommittees, to which they have been referred, and will probably not be reported for some time.

One of the most important of these measures is the proposed highway extension act, which was informally discussed this morning. But, of course, no member was able or willing, at this early day to express an opinion upon the measure.

A favorable action was taken upon the nomination of Oliver P. Johnson, nominated to be a justice of the peace for the District. Action was also taken upon the following:

An adverse report upon the measure limiting the hours of labor for the District police to eight hours, the Commissioners having reported that the force to attempt to confine their service to this specific period.

An adverse report was also made on the bill for the sale of police uniforms in the District. The measure requires that such uniforms be put up in three-cornered bottles. Many well-known proprietors of medicine, perfumes, etc., are bottled in vials this shape, and the committee thought that a better measure might be constructed to make the bottles of this shape, regulating the sale of such poisons.

The bill to incorporate the Washington Cooling Company, and granting the right of way for the distribution of materials for refrigerating purposes was adversely reported. The committee is not of the opinion that this bill is in the public interest, and that the business of the city demands such an industry. They therefore recommended that the bill be dropped.

The bill which appropriates about a half million dollars for the completion of the Washington aqueduct system was ordered to be favorably reported. This bill has twice passed the Senate and is now in the House.

A bill for the purpose of authorizing the granting of the Washington and Glen Echo railroad the right of way into the District at a point where it crosses the Chevy Chase road, near Chevy Chase circle. The bill was favorably reported.

The bill authorizing the restoration to the Reform School of boys who have been discharged on probation. The committee found no objection to this bill, and it was favorably reported.

The bill authorizing the Board of Children's Guardians to be empowered to make an examination of the children of the poor, and to make a report thereon to the Board of Children's Guardians, was favorably reported.

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## ACTION ON DISTRICT BILLS

A Number of Reports by the Senate Committee.

## NOEIGHT-HOUR DAY FOR POLICE

Measure to Regulate the Sale of Poisons Turned Down—Cooling Company Refused Right to Lay Pipes in Streets—The Aqueduct Bridge Not to Be Widened.

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## MURDERER PAYS THE PENALTY

Hanged at San Francisco.

## COOL AS EVER ON GALLOWES

Declared His Innocence to the Very Last—Parents Kept Vigil With Him Till a Late Hour—Futile Attempt to Secure Delay in the United States Supreme Court.

San Quentin, Cal., Jan. 7.—Theodore Durrant was hanged here this morning for the murder of Blanche Lamont. The drop fell at 10:35 o'clock.

Durrant spent the early part of his last night in conversation with his parents, a minister and a newspaper man. His mother left him at 11:30 p. m. An hour later he retired. He did not move in his sleep, but dozed as soon as he lay down.

All night long Mr. and Mrs. Durrant, utter hopelessness written on their trouble-seared faces, kept a vigil at a little inn outside the prison walls, ever and anon when their efforts to sleep failed, breaking into tears or offering up a prayer that their boy might be saved. Within his cage-like cell the prisoner, striving desperately to maintain his remarkably cool demeanor, still hoping against hope, walked the floor for an hour, after his parents left in the belief that the tired nature would come to his relief and induce the sleep for which he so earnestly wished.

His wish was granted and soon he was in a sound sleep. His every move was watched closely by the guards and his mother, who had attempted suicide, he could not have succeeded. He awoke at 6:20, sprang out of bed lively and carefully dressed in a suit of his own clothes. He ate a hearty breakfast of beefsteak, eggs and coffee.

At 9:15 o'clock Durrant was as steady and high-spirited as he was a year ago. At his anxiety was to make a neat appearance on the scaffold.

At 10:32 the condemned man mounted the steps to the scaffold. At 10:35 the drop fell. Five minutes later the Durrant declared his innocence on the scaffold. He was calm, cool and deliberate and died bravely.

The physician says that Durrant's calm courage aroused his admiration. He said: "That fellow is the man of the century. If any one thinks he is going to break down, he is mistaken. He is in as firm a physical condition as a man could ask. I feel quite sure that he will hit the scale at a mark over 150, and he is as particular about his early this morning, and he declared to his first party. When I asked him if he felt at all unwell, he held up his arm and showed me that there was not a tremor in it. 'If I have to die, I will die like a Durrant, that is all. I belong to a race which can meet even death without flinching,' he said."

The physician offered to come to him early this morning, and he declared himself as much as to intimate that he needed no such support to aid him in his march to the gallows.

Attorney Eugene Depray announces that execution will not be the last chapter of the celebrated case. Durrant's intention to reiterate his belief in Durrant's innocence and those engaged in the persecution are punished.

Duprey attempts to throw suspicion on Pastor Gibson and denounces Detective Bohlen for making an examination of Gibson's clothing.

It was Easter morning of 1895, that San Francisco was startled by the finding of a beautiful young girl dead in a closet opening into the library of Emanuel Church. The girl had been killed, and her body was found in a case hidden away in the church kitchen. The motive of the murder was revealed by physical evidence that murder was not the only crime wrought on the girl.

For ten days another young girl had been missing from her home in this city. She was also a member of the church. No clew had been found to account for her disappearance, but the recovery of Mary Blanche Williams, who was found in the library closet gave the police an idea, and they attacked every cranny and corner of Emanuel church.

The first day's search in the body of the girl discovered nothing, but the next day they broke down a barred door that gave access to the belfry and high up in the steeple they found the body of the girl.

The body was nude, the hands folded across the chest, the head resting on a block of wood. On the throat were the prints of nails of the fingers of a man, and the girl had been strangled. The girl in the belfry was Blanche Lamont. The girl in the library closet was Mary Blanche Williams.

Durrant knew them both. He was the assistant Sunday school superintendent of the church, and had offered marriage to the girl in the belfry and possibly the girl in the library closet. He told her guardian of a worse prospect, and she married him.

Durrant was a medical student, poor and obscure, one of their circle standing well in the little church and most interested in church work. A small, coarse featured young man in appearance, like thousands of others. Little by little the chain of circumstantial evidence around Durrant until they felt justified in causing his arrest and indictment. It took a month to get a jury trial in San Francisco, and three months to bring the evidence out.

Durrant was convicted on November 1, 1891. An appeal to the State supreme court prevented the execution until the date of the execution. A new trial was denied on a hearing of the appeal in March, 1897, and Durrant was sentenced to hang on January 7. A stay of execution was granted on an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, but the ruling of the United States court refused a writ of habeas corpus.

The United States Supreme Court dismissed the appeal November 8 last. The California superior court before the arrival of the writ refused to fix the date of the execution until January 11th, but the State supreme court granted a certificate of probable cause and the execution was again delayed and finally set for January 7.

A second application to the federal court for a writ of habeas corpus was made on Tuesday, January 4.

WORK OF THE HANGMAN.

Triple Execution in a Louisiana Parish.

New Orleans, Jan. 7.—At Hahnville, the county seat of St. Charles parish, thirty miles above this city, a triple hanging took place today. Three negroes, Louis Richards, alias Pierre, alias "Creole," and William Morris and George Washington formed the trio. They were convicted of murdering Lewis Zeigler, a Jewish peddler last June, the principal evidence against them being obtained through the confession of "Creole," who later confessed to a string of murders committed since 1888.

Greenfield, Mass., Jan. 7.—John O'Neil, the convicted murderer of Mrs. Hattie E. McColl, of Shelburne Falls, who was found on the evening of January 8, 1897, in a field, robbed, outraged, and murdered, was hanged at 10:41 this morning in the jail here.

A BATCH OF NOMINATIONS

Henry Boyer to Be Superintendent of Philadelphia Mint.

Two Consuls, Treasury Officers, Naval Men and Postmasters Are Named by the President.

Nominations were sent to the Senate today as follows:

Henry K. Boyer, of Pennsylvania, to be superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia.

Skaneateles, K. Kennedy, of Mississippi, to be consul of the United States at Para, Brazil.

William H. Graham, of Indiana, to be consul of the United States at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Charles Wright, of Michigan, to be collector of internal revenue for the first district of Detroit, Mich.

Arthur O. Sykes, of New York, to be a chaplain in the navy.

Harold H. L. Huss, of Virginia, to be an assistant surgeon in the navy.

Robert G. Pierce, of Illinois, to be a surveyor of customs for the port of Rock Island, Ill.

A large number of postmasters were also appointed.

## HANNA'S WAR ON BUSHNELL

Seeking to Minimize the Effect of the Inauguration.

## TROUBLE FEARED ON MONDAY

Both Factions Expect Large Crowds to Attend the Mass Meetings Called for That Day—Gold Democrats Stirred Up by Attacks on Brice Grosvenor on the Scene.

Columbus, O., Jan. 7.—There are grave apprehensions as to the outcome of the meetings here next Monday. The call of Judge Nash, chairman, for a mass meeting of Hanna Republicans will no doubt bring enormous crowds to the city. Gov. Bushnell's adherents will be here in force to attend his inauguration.

Already an attempt has been made by those who oppose the governor's cause in the Senatorial matter to make the inauguration a small matter. Many leading citizens have written letters withdrawing from the inauguration. The military parade is now reduced to almost nothing. The feeling is most intense, and collisions of the two factions are feared. The tough element will recognize it as an opportunity for them to improve, and the police fear they will gather here in numbers too large to handle.

It has been suggested to Gov. Bushnell that he declare the whole ceremony, beyond the mere taking of the oath of office, off, and have no demonstration at all. The anti-Hanna Republicans hold, however, that this would be regarded as an act of cowardice and a surrender to Senator Hanna, of a day long set apart for the celebration of the opening of Gov. Bushnell's second term.

The attack upon ex-Senator Brice and ex-Mayor J. H. Farley, of Cleveland, in a circular issued by the Democratic State committee last night, in which they were referred to as traitors to the Democratic party, and to be in a scheme to secure the election of Senator Hanna, has stirred the gold Democrats to action. They generally hope to see Mr. Hanna elected; however, there are no gold Democrats in the legislature.

The anti-Hanna Republicans call attention to the fact that though the Hanna managers thought a caucus was necessary, they have called a mass meeting of the Republicans of the State to take action in the Senatorial matter.

Congressman Charles H. Grosvenor returned to the Hanna headquarters from Washington this morning. He denied that he went to Washington either to arrange for Sherman to become a candidate for Senator in the event that Hanna cannot win,